

KARO-ECHO Membership Meeting

June 8, 2020

via Zoom

Attendees

NI6A	Don Simon
KJ6AAT	David Swanson
KE6BEE	Howdy Goudey
KN6BUY	Tom Fattaruso
K6CLS	Cliff Sojourner
KN6CMP	Blake Yeaman
KN6CMR	Susan Yeaman
KM6CXI	Mike Stuart
KE6HCE	Armando Picciotto
KM6HFT	Curt Smith
K6KOP	Jerry Michaels
KK6NDF	Hal Graboske
KC6OBK	Marian Gade
KK6RED	Diane Richwine
KM6SNR	John Palmer
KJ6SWK	Annette McCoubrey
KM6TCB	Dave Roth
KM6UCF	Natalie DeJarlais
KJ6WSS	Jay Fenton
KK6ZPM	Karen Leong Fenton

Minutes

Don moved to approve the May meeting minutes; Marian seconded; motion carried.

Training session: Common Errors of Net Control Station (NCS)

Don led the group through a training to practice handling issues that can arise during nets.

Identification

- Remember to state your FCC call sign at least every 10 minutes.

Getting the attention of Net Control

- Call sign suffix is an efficient way to get net control's attention (*e.g.*, "BEE").
- Tactical call sign also works where relevant

Relaying

- Relays are important here due to our geography and difficulty passing messages

- To alert NCS when they appear to have missed a message, state “relay” and your suffix.(e.g., “Relay BEE”)
- NCS (net control station) acknowledges with “Relay go ahead,” using the call sign of the selected operator if there are multiple offers.

Fills (*i.e.*, repeating sections of messages)

Either NCS or an operator can request a fill. The NCS may offer to provide a fill, though the operator could be asked to stand by while emergency traffic passes. Don’t feel shy about requesting information you need.

- Sample query: “Does anyone need a fill from the bulletin station?”
 - I need a fill between “emergency” and “fire.”
- Acknowledge the fill with “copy” or “roger” or “QSL”

Moving Traffic

Message traffic should be moved to another frequency, leaving net control available for other communications. Before changing frequencies, the two operators should ensure that they can hear each other.

Example:

EC2 has traffic for EC3. EC3 calls EC2 to establish contact, and then they're moved off frequency.

- “EC2 with traffic”
- NCS: “EC2, go ahead.”
- “This is EC2. I have [emergency or priority] traffic for EC3.”
- NCS: “EC3, call EC2. If good copy, move to 146.475.” (This ensures that they can hear each other before going to the other frequency.)
- “EC2, if you copy, move to 146.75.”
- “Copy. Moving to 146.75.”
- “Copy” (or “Roger”)

Be Succinct (but not too succinct)

In the case of an emergency with an extended period of being on air, you naturally go into a more succinct mode. If there are operators unfamiliar with protocol, it may be necessary to be more detailed until they understand the procedure.

Arriving at and Using a New Frequency

- Upon tuning to a new frequency, ask whether it's in use. If in use, the operators should return to NCS and request another frequency.
- Upon moving to another frequency, use your FCC call sign at the beginning and the end of the transmission.
- Give the other operator at least a minute to respond on the new frequency. If there is no contact on the new frequency, return to net control and advise of the failure to pass the message.

On the new frequency, the receiving station goes first as a convention, but be proactive in initiating the contact; don't wait.

Example:

- Is this frequency in use?
- KEN3, this is KEN1, KM6UCF. Do you copy? (Note the use of the FCC call sign following the tactical call sign.)
- KEN 1, this is KEN 3, NI6A. Good copy.
- Ready to copy?
- Affirmative.
- [Message sent in KE 213 format.]
- [No need to repeat message; only ask for clarification/fills as needed.]
- Roger (Or "QSL" or "copy")
- Returning to net control. This is KEN1, KM6UCF.
- This is KEN 3, NI6A

Upon returning to the net, announce yourself by stating your call sign or suffix (*e.g.*, BEE.)
Message success on the other frequency is assumed unless you state otherwise.

- KEN1 (or "KEN1 back," but brevity is preferable)
- KEN3 (or "KEN3 back," but brevity is preferable)
- If message was not passed: "KEN3 fail" or "KEN3 no copy" or "KEN3 NG" (no good or no go)
- NCS: "Acknowledging KEN3 and KEN 1."

Announcing Emergency Traffic

We prefer to use "emergency" followed by the call sign or suffix to get the attention of NCS. The problem with using "break break" is that NCS might only hear one "break" and not give precedence to the message. If NCS hears any part of the word "emergency," they will give immediate priority to UCF.

Example

- "Emergency UCF."
- NCS: "Emergency, come back with traffic."
- UCF then lists her traffic as to destination and precedence.

It is essential to leave gaps during communication to allow other traffic to break in. Drop the key and pause on a regular basis.

Handling Doubles

Doubles occur when two or more operators transmit simultaneously. NCS will attempt to decipher some identifying factors from one of the operators, such as a partial call sign or

familiar voice, and ask that operator to transmit again.

Examples:

- “Amador, go ahead.”
- “Bravo Uniform try again.”

After the first traffic is handled, NCS will ask the other operator to come back and list their traffic.

Other Business

Please spread the word on FRS/GMRS nets, as it is good to increase awareness of these practices as applicable. EC9 has begun holding a regular FRS/GMRS net. KEN 6 and EC 4 may follow soon. There is a need to coordinate the FRS/GMRS frequencies so that areas do not interfere with each other. Contact Don for frequency coordination.

Karen mentioned that Edward has links to the zoom training and a website he’s working on, which can be used to teach other people. Howdy will add the links to the newsletter.

Geoff Lomax is planning to create a comprehensive list of FRS/GMRS nets, according to Jay.

Good doubling practice reported by KJ6AAT, David; the Oakland Radio Club practices on Thursdays at 7:30. They do it well. 146.880 PL tone -77. Offset = 060

Message Center Hub: Don suggested that the next meeting focus on how to run an interservice hub where FRS/GMRS and Ham circuits interface: How to route and prioritize and filter the traffic at the message center.

The meeting was adjourned.